

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

Offered by Councillors Charles C. Yancey and Ayanna Pressley

ORDER CALLING FOR HEARING TO INVESTIGATE SOCIAL SERVICES AVAILABLE TO VICTIMS OF COMMUNITY VIOLENCE

- WHEREAS: Community violence includes acts such as rapes, beatings, shootings and stabbings; And
- WHEREAS: One study found that over 75 percent of those in high-violence neighborhoods had been exposed to community violence; And
- WHEREAS: Past research has documented that exposure to community violence may have enduring consequences on children's development, beginning in the pre-school years and continuing through adolescence; And
- WHEREAS: The research has demonstrated that although some children may internalize problems and become anxious, fearful or withdrawn, others may externalize problems and learn to use violence to attain their wishes, or to identify with the aggressor, as a way to solve interpersonal conflict with the adult world or with their peers; And
- WHEREAS: Community violence is recognized as a public health issue, especially among the young; Be It Therefore
- ORDERED: That the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss social services available to victims of community violence; Be It Further
- ORDERED: That members of the Boston Public Health Commission, the Boston Police Department, anti-violence groups, and community members be invited to testify about the forms of individual and group treatments that are available for Boston youths suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder resulting from community violence; And Be It Further
- ORDERED: That members of the Boston Public Health Commission, the Boston Police Department, Anti-violence groups, and community members be invited to testify about whether or not the City of Boston is providing sufficient support for violence and sexual assault prevention programs in the City of Boston.

**In City Council
February 3, 2010**